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*Cases of influenza reported in extra-cantonment zones—Continued.*

| State and zone.               | Cases reported to Oct. 26, 1918. | Cases reported week ended— |         |          |          |          |         |          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
|                               |                                  | Nov. 2.                    | Nov. 9. | Nov. 16. | Nov. 23. | Nov. 30. | Dec. 7. | Dec. 14. |
| Georgia:                      |                                  |                            |         |          |          |          |         |          |
| Gas and Flame School.....     | 3,506                            | 531                        | 260     | 233      | 85       | 93       | 184     | 818      |
| Gordon.....                   | 3,149                            | 372                        | 134     | 124      | 172      | 141      | 122     | 282      |
| Hancock.....                  | 996                              | 281                        | 153     | 259      | 290      | 33       | 31      | 61       |
| Pieric-acid plant.....        | 743                              | 42                         | 41      | 14       | 16       | 14       | 40      | 111      |
| Wheeler.....                  | 1,990                            | 522                        | 253     | 257      | 671      | 523      | 529     | 218      |
| Florida:                      |                                  |                            |         |          |          |          |         |          |
| Johnston.....                 | 5,436                            | 233                        | 10      | 0        | 3        | 8        | 10      | 41       |
| Kentucky and Indiana:         |                                  |                            |         |          |          |          |         |          |
| Taylor.....                   | 9,857                            | 1,146                      | 513     | 454      | 837      | 935      | 1,485   | 1,520    |
| Georgia and Tennessee:        |                                  |                            |         |          |          |          |         |          |
| Oglethorpe.....               | 3,644                            | 73                         | 26      | 11       | 2        | 38       | 24      | 12       |
| Alabama:                      |                                  |                            |         |          |          |          |         |          |
| McClellan.....                | 1,586                            | 232                        | 38      | 229      | 105      | 90       | 124     | 148      |
| Sheridan.....                 | 560                              | 55                         | 1       | 32       | 80       | 99       | 354     | 306      |
| Mississippi:                  |                                  |                            |         |          |          |          |         |          |
| Gulfport health district..... | 4,678                            | 753                        | 388     | 227      | 113      | 206      | 221     | 270      |
| Shelby.....                   | 891                              | 107                        | 50      | 6        | 179      | 35       | 90      | 335      |
| Arkansas:                     |                                  |                            |         |          |          |          |         |          |
| Eberts.....                   | 1,662                            | 219                        | 44      | 118      | 33       | 75       | 154     | 137      |
| Pike.....                     | 9,406                            | 324                        | 94      | 76       | 95       | 209      | 568     | 249      |
| Louisiana:                    |                                  |                            |         |          |          |          |         |          |
| Beauregard.....               | 3,445                            | 253                        | 78      | 33       | 8        | 5        | 69      | 253      |
| Gerstner Field.....           |                                  | 360                        | 186     | 174      | 177      | 309      | 917     | 420      |
| Oklahoma:                     |                                  |                            |         |          |          |          |         |          |
| Doniphan.....                 | 296                              | 12                         | 4       | 5        | 2        | 8        | 16      | .....    |
| Texas:                        |                                  |                            |         |          |          |          |         |          |
| Bowie.....                    | 1,313                            | 68                         | 32      | 38       | 14       | 36       | 269     | 288      |
| Logan.....                    | 468                              | 341                        | 1       | 0        | 0        | .....    | 26      | 79       |
| MacArthur.....                | 1,065                            | 233                        | 75      | 10       | 5        | 12       | 32      | 42       |
| Travis.....                   | 5,781                            | 844                        | 385     | 124      | 149      | 254      | 1,206   | 1,264    |
| Washington:                   |                                  |                            |         |          |          |          |         |          |
| Bremerton.....                | 533                              | 77                         | 82      | 46       | 47       | 60       | 0       | 385      |
| Lewis.....                    | 135                              | 72                         | 44      | 32       | 12       | 7        | 30      | 12       |
| Vancouver.....                | 642                              | 156                        | 183     | 47       | 120      | 154      | 249     | 329      |

**GUARDING AGAINST INFLUENZA.**

An erroneous interpretation having been placed upon an interview with the Surgeon General, relative to the influenza situation, the United States Public Health Service has issued a warning emphasizing the danger of relaxing precautions against the epidemic. The epidemic is not ended and such recrudescences of cases and deaths as are now occurring in many localities may be expected to become more or less general.

Commenting upon the interpretation given to a prior interview, Surgeon General Blue said, "I may have been misunderstood, but I thought I had emphasized the fact that not only was the epidemic still present in many parts of the country, but in a number of places it is even more prevalent than it was in the early part of the epidemic. Any statement at the present time that the epidemic has 'come and gone for good' can only do harm, for it will lull people into a false sense of security, and cause them to relax the precautions they should take to avoid the infection."

At the recent meeting of the American Public Health Association, considerable attention was devoted to the subject of influenza. Attended by health officers from all over the country and from

Canada, Mexico, and Cuba as well, this afforded an excellent opportunity for an interchange of experiences with the epidemic. Considerable evidence was adduced which showed that apparently not quite enough attention had been paid to soiled fingers in the spread of the disease. The same is true of infection spread through soiled eating and drinking utensils. One of the very interesting papers presented at the Chicago meeting described the experiences of various Army camps in dealing with influenza. The evidence presented appeared to show that the disease had been less prevalent in those camps where sterilization of eating utensils was insisted upon, than where this was not done. This is such a simple precaution to take that it ought everywhere to be tried. It should certainly be insisted upon by health authorities in all places where food and drink are sold to the public, for example, in restaurants, saloons, soda-water stands, and the like.

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## THE NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

### PREVALENCE DURING 1917 IN CITIES OF OVER 100,000.<sup>1</sup>

CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS, DIPHTHERIA, GONORRHEA, MALARIA, MEASLES, PELLAGRA, POLIOMYELITIS, RABIES IN MAN, RABIES IN ANIMALS, SCARLET FEVER, SMALLPOX, SYPHILIS, TUBERCULOSIS (PULMONARY), TUBERCULOSIS (ALL FORMS), AND TYPHOID FEVER—CASES AND DEATHS REPORTED, INDICATED CASE RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION, INDICATED FATALITY RATES PER 100 CASES.

The following tables include data for all cities of the United States having an estimated population of 100,000 or over as of July 1, 1917.

In studying these tables it should be kept in mind that a relatively large number of reported cases of a communicable disease as indicated by a high case rate (and more especially when accompanied by a relatively small number of deaths, as indicated by a low fatality rate) usually means that the health department of that city is active and that the cases of the disease are being properly reported by the practicing physicians. It does not usually mean that the disease is more prevalent in that city than in other cities. A high fatality rate may mean that the disease was unusually virulent in a city, that the physicians did not treat the disease in that city with the success usual elsewhere, or that the practicing physicians did not report all of their cases to the health department. On the other hand, an unusually low fatality rate may be due to the fact that the disease in the city was unusually mild, that the physicians treated

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<sup>1</sup> It will be noted that some of the cities are apparently much more successful in obtaining reports of the notifiable diseases than are others. This may be due to the greater activity of their health departments or to a greater interest in the public welfare on the part of their practicing physicians. That the health departments of certain cities are securing sufficiently complete information of the prevalence of preventable diseases to make possible their control is indicated in a number of instances by the large numbers of cases reported as compared with the numbers of deaths registered from the same causes.